REMARKS

Claims 1 and 19 have been cancelled, thereby mooting their rejections. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the remaining claims. No new matter has been entered. For example, consider claim 2, which recites a method of for emulating an erasable storage medium using a non-erasable optical disk including the steps of "writing a plurality of data files in the writing area, wherein a first data file is written from a first end of the spiral track, a second data file is written from the end of the first data file on the spiral track, and so on for remaining data files; [and] generating a system sector for the data files, wherein the system sector identifies, for each data file, its location in the writable area and its size." Applicants agree with the Examiner that the Flannagan reference (USP 4,827,462) does not teach the emulation of an erasable storage medium using a non-erasable optical disk. Moreover, Applicants agree that the Flannagan reference does appear to disclose the writing of data files at one end of a data track and the writing of directory files at the other end. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that the method recited in claim 2 is obvious over Flannagan in view of the Ito reference (USP 6,243,340). Specifically, consider the following limitations of claim 2: "generating an updated system sector whenever there is a change in the data files stored on the writable area, wherein the updated system sector identifies the changed data files; and writing the updated system sector in the writable area, wherein the updated system sector is written from the end of the system sector on the spiral track." These limitations are no where to be found or suggested in either the Ito or the Flannagan reference.

With respect to the Ito reference, Applicants agree with the Examiner that it appears to disclose an emulated erasure of a data file for a write-once optical disk. However, this emulation is starkly different from the emulation method of claim 2. For example, consider Figure 6 of Ito, which discloses a multi-session format for a write-once disk. Such a multi-

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session format is well-known and refers to multiple instances of recording such that each instance is a "session." Because a file may be spread across multiple sessions, the sessions (referred to as sections in Figure 6) must be linked. This linking process is detailed in Figure 5 showing how it starts at the first session and continues to read other sessions until the file has been read. Ito teaches an "erasure" of these sessions by designating the erasure in the final session (Col. 9, lines 27 through 40). Although Ito is very murky regarding exactly how such an erasure is indicated, what is clear is that the data and directory information is mixed. For example, consider Figures 7 and 8 showing the directory records being part of the "session logical volume space" of Figure 6. This is very different from the recited method of claim 2, wherein the data and directory files are separate. Moreover, Ito makes no suggestion at all of an "updated system sector [that] identifies the changed data files."

Thus no prima facie case of obviousness can be made with these references because the combination of Ito and Flannagan does not even disclose each element of claim 2, let alone provide a suggestion to combine these missing elements. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over the Flannagan and Ito references. Because claims. Because claims 2 through 9 depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 2, they are patentable over these references for at least the same reasons. With regard to claim 3, the Sakurai reference (USP 5,210,734) merely discloses a method for recording information on write-once medium to be compatible with CD-ROM drives and makes no mention of emulating an erasable medium using a write-once optical disk. Because Sakurai does nothing to cure the infirmities of the Flannagan and Ito references, claim 3 is patentable over their combination. With regard to claim 4, the Russ reference (USP 5,446,857) also does nothing to cure the infirmities of the Flannagan and Ito references because it is also directed to a method for recording information on write-once medium to be compatible with CD-ROM drives. With regard to claim 9, the Kuen reference (USP 5,754,351) is merely directed to sectoring circuit and this also does nothing to provide

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the missing teachings in the Ito and Flannagan references.

Claim 20 is patentable for analogous reasons. Specifically, claim 20 is directed to a write-once read-many (WORM) optical disk including a writable area having an updated system sector that includes information for accessing updated data files, wherein the updated system sector is written in the writable area starting from the end of the system sector towards the data area along the spiral track. As discussed above, neither the Ito nor the Flannagan reference disclose or suggest such a disk. Accordingly, claim 20 is patentable over these references. Claims 24 through 26 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 20 and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 20. The Kuen reference adds nothing further as discussed above.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, pending claims 2 – 9, 20, and 24 – 25 are in condition for allowance.

If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at 949-752-7040.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 13, 2003.

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June 13, 2003
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